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EXAMINER	
ZIA, SYED	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2131	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/003,027	MEDIRATTA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Syed Zia	2131	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *02 November 2001*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-57* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-57* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *4/2002*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This office action is in response to application filed on November 02, 2001. Original application contained Claims 1-57. Therefore, presently pending claims are 1- 57.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nguyen (U. S. Patent 5,689,566)

Regarding Claim 1 Nguyen teaches a computer implemented method for updating a Current security scheme on a computer system, said computer implemented method comprising the steps of: (a) receiving log-in data for a client during a first log-in attempt; (b) authenticating said client, wherein said step (b) includes the steps of: (1) applying a first function to a value in

said log-in data to obtain a first result, and (2) employing said first result in determining whether to authenticate said client during said first log-in attempt; (c) determining that said current security scheme is to be replaced by a desired security scheme; and (d) modifying at least one record in said computer system in response to said step (c), wherein said step (d) includes the step of: (1) applying a second function to said value received in said step (a) to obtain a second result (Fig.1-2, col.3 line 33 to col.4 line 40).

Regarding Claim 18 Nguyen teaches a computer implemented method for providing a client with access to a primary system through an intermediate system, said computer implemented method comprising the steps of: (a) creating a log-in record, wherein said log-in record includes a security identifier and a first encrypted value, wherein said security identifier corresponds to a current security scheme employed by said intermediate system; (b) receiving log-in data for said client; (c) authenticating access of said client to said intermediate system, based on data from said log-in data and data from said log-in record; (d) obtaining authentication data to send to said primary system, wherein said authentication data includes data from a decrypted version of said first encrypted value; (e) determining that said current security scheme is to be replaced by a desired security scheme; and (f) modifying said log-in record, wherein said step (f) includes the steps of: (1) updating said security identifier to correspond to said desired security scheme, (2) employing data in said log-in data received in said step (b) to calculate a second encrypted value, and (3) replacing said first encrypted value with said second encrypted value (Fig.1-2, col.3 line 33 to col.4 line 40. and col.5 line 33 to line 65).

Regarding Claim 31 Nguyen teaches a processor readable storage medium having processor readable code embodied on said processor readable storage medium, said processor readable code for programming a processor to perform a method for updating a current security scheme on a computer system, said method comprising the steps of: (a) receiving log-in data for a client during a first log-in attempt; (b) authenticating said client, wherein said step (b) includes the steps of: (1) applying a first function to a value in said log-in data to obtain a first result, and (2) employing said first result in determining whether to authenticate said client during said first log-in attempt; (c) determining that said current security scheme is to be replaced by a desired security scheme; and (d) modifying at least one record in said computer system in response to said step (c), wherein said step (d) includes the step of: (1) applying a second function to said value received in said step (a) to obtain a second result (Fig.1-2, col.3 line 33 to col.4 line 40. and col.5 line 33 to line 65).

Regarding Claim 41 Nguyen teaches a processor readable storage medium having processor readable code embodied on said processor readable storage medium, said processor readable code for programming a processor to perform a method for providing a client with access to a primary system through an intermediate system, said method comprising the steps of: (a) creating a log-in record, wherein said log-in record includes a security identifier and a first encrypted value, wherein said security identifier corresponds to a current security scheme employed by said intermediate system; (b) receiving log-in data for said client; (c) authenticating access of said client to said intermediate system, based on data from said log-in data and data from said log-in record; (d) obtaining authentication data to send to said primary system, wherein

said authentication data includes data from a decrypted version of said first encrypted value; (e) determining that said current security scheme is to be replaced by a desired security scheme; and (f) modifying said log-in record, wherein said step (f) includes the steps of: (1) updating said security identifier to correspond to said desired security scheme, (2) employing data in said log-in data received in said step (b) to calculate a second encrypted value, and (3) replacing said first encrypted value with said second encrypted value (Fig.1-2, col.3 line 33 to col.4 line 40. and col.5 line 33 to line 65).

Regarding Claim 49 Nguyen teaches an apparatus providing a client with access to a primary system through an intermediate system, said apparatus comprising: a processor; and a processor readable storage medium, in communication with said processor, said processor readable storage medium storing code for programming said processor to perform a method for updating a current security scheme on a computer system, wherein said method includes the steps of: (a) receiving log-in data for a client during a first log-in attempt; (b) authenticating said client, wherein said step (b) includes the steps of: (1) applying a first function to a value in said log-in data to obtain a first result, and (2) employing said first result in determining whether to authenticate said client during said first log-in attempt; (c) determining that said current security scheme is to be replaced by a desired security scheme; and (d) modifying at least one record in said computer system in response to said step (c), wherein said step (d) includes the step of: (1) applying a second function to said value received in said step (a) to obtain a second result (Fig.1-2, col.3 line 33 to col.4 line 40. and col.5 line 33 to line 65).

2. Claims 2-17, 19-30, 32-40, 42-48, and 50-57 are rejected applied as above rejecting claims 1, 18, 31, 41, and 49. Furthermore, Nguyen teaches and describes:

As per Claim 2, wherein said computer system maintains a log-in record, wherein said step (b)(2) includes the steps of: (i) comparing said first result obtained in said step (b)(1) to a first value stored in said log-in record (col.3 line 55 to line 57).

As per Claim 3, wherein said step (d) includes the step of: (2)
replacing said first value in said log-in record with said second result obtained in said step (d)(1) (col.3 line 55 to col.4 line 17).

As per Claim 4, wherein said first function is a first hash function and said second function is a second hash function different than said first hash function (col.3line 63 to col.4 line 18).

As per Claim 5, said step (b) includes the steps of: (3) applying a third function to said value in said log-in data to obtain a first credential; and (4) decrypting a third value in said log-in record to obtain a decrypted value, wherein said step (b)(4) employs said first credential (col.4 line 5 to line 30).

As per Claim 6, wherein said step (b) further includes the step of: (5) forwarding said decrypted value to a primary computer system credential (col.4 line 5 to line 30).

As per Claim 7, wherein said step (d) includes the steps of: (2) replacing said first value in said log-in record with said second result obtained in said step (d)(1); (3) applying a fourth function to said value in said log-in record to obtain a second credential; (4) encrypting a quantity to obtain a fourth value, wherein said step (d)(4) employs said second credential; and (5) replacing said third value in said log-in record with said fourth value (col. 4 line 41 to col.5 line 33).

As per Claim 8, wherein said first function is a first hash function and said second function is a second hash function different than said first hash function, and said third function is a third hash function and said fourth function is a fourth hash function different than said third hash function (col.3 line 63 to col.4 line 30).

As per Claim 9, wherein said step (b) includes the steps of: (3) inputting said value in said log-in data into a first cryptographic cipher to obtain a first encryption key; and (4) decrypting a third value in said log-in record to obtain a decrypted value, wherein said step (b)(4) employs said first encryption key (col.4 line 41 to line 50).

As per Claim 10, wherein said step (b) further includes the step of: (5) forwarding said decrypted value to a primary computer system (col.4 line 41 to line 65).

As per Claim 11, wherein said step (d) includes the steps of: (2) replacing said first value in said log-in record with said second result obtained in said step (d)(1); (3) inputting said value in said log-in data into a second cryptographic cipher to obtain a second encryption key; (4) encrypting

a quantity to obtain a fourth value, wherein said step (d)(4) employs said second encryption key; and (5) replacing said third value in said log-in record with said fourth value (col.4 line 41 to col.5 line 33).

As per Claim 12, wherein said computer system maintains a log-in record, wherein said step (b)(2) includes the steps of: (i) decrypting a first value in said log-in record to obtain a decrypted value, wherein said step (b)(2)(i) employs said first result as a decryption key; and (ii) forwarding said decrypted value to a primary computer system (col.4 line 50 to line 65).

As per Claim 13, wherein said step (d) includes the steps of: (2) encrypting a quantity to obtain a second value, wherein said step (d)(3) employs said second result obtained in said step (d)(1); and (3) replacing said first value in said log-in record with said second value (col.5 line 7 to line 33).

As per Claim 14, wherein: said first function is a first hash function and said second function is a second hash function different than said first hash function, and said third function is a third hash function and said fourth function is a fourth hash function different than said third hash function (col.3line 63 to col.4 line 18).

As per Claim 15, wherein: said first function is a first cryptographic cipher and said second function is a second cryptographic cipher different than said first cryptographic cipher, and said third function is a third cryptographic cipher and said fourth function is a fourth cryptographic

cipher different than said third cryptographic cipher (col.3 line 63 to col.4 line 40).

As per Claim 16, further including the steps of: (e) receiving log-in data for said client during a second log-in attempt; (f) authenticating said client during said second log-in attempt, wherein said step (f) includes the steps of: (1) applying said second function to a value in said log-in data received in said step (e) to obtain a third result, and (2) employing said third result in determining whether to authenticate said client during said second log-in attempt (col.3 line 40 to col.4 line 65).

As per Claim 17, wherein said computer system includes a log-in record corresponding to said client, wherein said log-in record includes a first entry identifying said current security scheme, said computer implemented method further including the step of: (g) replacing said first entry in said log-in record with a second entry identifying said desired security scheme (col.8 line 52 to col.9 line 28).

As per Claim 19, wherein said step (c) includes the steps of: (1) applying a first function to a value in said log-in data to obtain a first result, and (2) comparing said first result obtained in said step (c)(1) to a first value stored in said log-in record (col.3 line 55 to line 57).

As per Claim 20, wherein said step (f) includes the steps of: (4) applying a second function to said value in said log-in data to obtain a second result; and (5) replacing said first value in said log-in record with said second result obtained in said step (d)(4) (col.3 line 55 to col.4 line 17).

As per Claim 21, wherein said first function is a first hash function and said second function is a second hash function different than said first hash function (col.3line 63 to col.4 line 18).

As per Claim 22, wherein said step (d) includes the steps of: (3) applying a third function to said value in said log-in data to obtain a first credential; and (4) decrypting said first encrypted value in said log-in record to obtain a first decrypted value, wherein said step (d)(4) employs said first credential, wherein said authentication data includes said first decrypted value credential (col.4 line 5 to line 30).

As per Claim 23, said step (f)(2) includes the steps of: (i) applying a fourth function to said value in said log-in record to obtain a second credential; and (ii) encrypting a quantity to obtain said second encrypted value, wherein said step (f)(2)(ii) employs said second credential (col. 4 line 41 to col.5 line 33).

As per Claim 24, said third function is a third hash function and said fourth function is a fourth hash function different than said third hash function (col.3 line 63 to col.4 line 30).

As per Claim 25, wherein said step (d) includes the steps of: (3) inputting said value in said log-in data to a first cryptographic cipher to obtain a first decryption key; and (4) decrypting said first encrypted value in said log-in record to obtain a first decrypted value, wherein said step (d)(4) employs said first decryption key, wherein said authentication data includes said first

decrypted value (col. 4 line 41 to line 50).

As per Claim 26, wherein said step (f)(2) includes the steps of: (i) inputting said value in said log-in record to a second cryptographic cipher to obtain said second encryption key; (ii) encrypting a quantity to obtain said second encrypted value, wherein said step (f)(2)(ii) employs said second encryption key (col.5 line 7 to line 33).

As per Claim 27, wherein said step (d) includes the steps of: (1) applying a first function to a value in said log-in data to obtain a first credential; and (2) decrypting said first encrypted value in said log-in record to obtain a first decrypted value, wherein said step (d)(2) employs said first credential, wherein said authentication data includes said first decrypted value credential (col.4 line 5 to line 30).

As per Claim 28, wherein said step (f)(2) includes the steps of: (i) applying a second function to said value in said log-in record to obtain a second credential; and (ii) encrypting a quantity to obtain said second encrypted value, wherein said step (f)(2)(ii) employs said second credential (col.4 line 41 to lcol.5 line 33).

As per Claim 29, wherein said first function is a first hash function and said second function is a second hash function different than said first hash function (col.3line 63 to col.4 line 18)..

As per Claim 30, wherein said first function is a first cryptographic cipher and said second

function is a second cryptographic cipher different than said first cryptographic cipher (col.3line 63 to col.4 line 18).

As per Claim 32, wherein said computer system maintains a log-in record, wherein said step (b)(2) includes the steps of: (i) comparing said first result obtained in said step (b)(1) to a first value stored in said log-in record, and wherein said step (d) includes the step of: (2) replacing said first value in said log-in record with said second result obtained in said step (d)(1) (col. 4 line 41 to col.5 line 65).

As per Claim 33, wherein said first function is a first hash function and said second function is a second hash function different than said first hash function (col.3line 63 to col.4 line 18).

As per Claim 34, wherein said step (b) includes the steps of: (3) applying a third function to said value in said log-in data to obtain a first credential; and (4) decrypting a third value in said log-in record to obtain a decrypted value, wherein said step (b)(4) employs said first credential, and wherein said step (d) includes the steps of: (3) applying a fourth function to said value in said log-in record to obtain a second credential; (4) encrypting a quantity to obtain a fourth value, wherein said step (d)(4) employs said second credential; and (5) replacing said third value in said log-in record with said fourth value (col. 4 line 41 to col.5 line 65).

As per Claim 35, wherein: said first function is a first hash function and said second function is a second hash function different than said first hash function, and said third function is a third hash

function and said fourth function is a fourth hash function different than said third hash function(col.3 line 63 to col.4 line 30).

As per Claim 36, wherein said step (b) includes the steps of: (3) inputting said value in said log-in data into a first cryptographic cipher to obtain a first encryption key; and (4) decrypting a third value in said log-in record to obtain a decrypted value, wherein said step (b)(4) employs said first encryption key, and wherein said step (d) includes the steps of: (3) inputting said value in said log-in data into a second cryptographic cipher to obtain a second encryption key; (4) encrypting a quantity to obtain a fourth value, wherein said step (d)(4) employs said second encryption key; and (5) replacing said third value in said log-in record with said fourth value(col.4 line 41 to col.5 line 65).

As per Claim 37, wherein said computer system maintains a log-in record, wherein said step (b)(2) includes the steps of: (i) decrypting a first value in said log-in record to obtain a decrypted value, wherein said step (b)(2)(i) employs said first result as a decryption key; and (ii) forwarding said decrypted value to a primary computer system, and wherein said step (d) includes the steps of: (2) encrypting a quantity to obtain a second value, wherein said step (d)(2) employs said second result obtained in said step (d)(1); and (3) replacing said first value in said log-in record with said second value (col.4 line 41 to col.5 line 65).

As per Claim 38, wherein: said first function is a first hash function and said second function is a second hash function different than said first hash function, and said third function is a third hash

function and said fourth function is a fourth hash function different than said third hash function (col.3line 63 to col.4 line 18).

As per Claim 39, wherein: said first function is a first cryptographic cipher and said second function is a second cryptographic cipher different than said first cryptographic cipher, and said third function is a third cryptographic cipher and said fourth function is a fourth cryptographic cipher different than said third cryptographic cipher (col.3line 63 to col.4 line 18).

As per Claim 40, wherein said computer system includes a log-in record corresponding to said client, wherein said log-in record includes a first entry identifying said current security scheme, said computer implemented method further including the step of: (e) replacing said first entry in said log-in record with a second entry identifying said desired security scheme (col.3 line 33 to col.4 line 40).

As per Claim 42, wherein said step (c) includes the steps of: (1) applying a first function to a value in said log-in data to obtain a first result, and (2) comparing said first result obtained in said step (c)(1) to a first value stored in said log-in record, and wherein said step (f) includes the steps of: (4) applying a second function to said value in said log-in data to obtain a second result; and (5) replacing said first value in said log-in record with said second result obtained in said step (d)(4) (col.4 line 41 to col.5 line 65).

As per Claim 43, wherein said first function is a first hash function and said second function is a

second hash function different than said first hash function (col.3 line 55 to col.4 line 17).

As per Claim 44, wherein said step (d) includes the steps of: (3) applying a third function to said value in said log-in data to obtain a first credential; and (4) decrypting said first encrypted value in said log-in record to obtain a first decrypted value, wherein said step (d)(4) employs said first credential, wherein said authentication data includes said first decrypted value, and wherein said step (f)(2) includes the steps of: (i) applying a fourth function to said value in said log-in record to obtain a second credential; and (ii) encrypting a quantity to obtain said second encrypted value, wherein said step (f)(2)(ii) employs said second credential (col.4 line 41 to col.5 line 65).

As per Claim 45, wherein said step (d) includes the steps of: (3) inputting said value in said log-in data to a first cryptographic cipher to obtain a first decryption key; and (4) decrypting said first encrypted value in said log-in record to obtain a first decrypted value, wherein said step (d)(4) employs said first decryption key, wherein said authentication data includes said first decrypted value, and wherein said step (f)(2) includes the steps of: (i) inputting said value in said log-in record to a second cryptographic cipher to obtain said second encryption key; (ii) encrypting a quantity to obtain said second encrypted value, wherein said step (f)(2)(ii) employs said second encryption key(col.4 line 41 to col.5 line 65).

As per Claim 46, wherein said step (d) includes the steps of: (1) applying a first function to a value in said log-in data to obtain a first credential; and (2) decrypting said first encrypted value in said log-in record to obtain a first decrypted value, wherein said step (d)(2) employs said first

credential, wherein said authentication data includes said first decrypted value, and wherein said step (f)(2) includes the steps of: (i) applying a second function to said value in said log-in record to obtain a second credential; and (ii) encrypting a quantity to obtain said second encrypted value, wherein said step (f)(2)(ii) employs said second credential (col.4 line 41 to col.5 line 65).

As per Claim 47, wherein said first function is a first hash function and said second function is a second hash function different than said first hash function (col.3line 63 to col.4 line 18).

As per Claim 48, wherein said first function is a first cryptographic cipher and said second function is a second cryptographic cipher different than said first cryptographic cipher (col.4 line 41 to col.5 line 65).

As per Claim 50, wherein said computer system maintains a log-in record, wherein said step (b)(2) includes the steps of: (i) comparing said first result obtained in said step (b)(1) to a first value stored in said log-in record, and wherein said step (d) includes the step of: (2) replacing said first value in said log-in record with said second result obtained in said step (d)(1) (col.4 line 41 to col.5 line 65).

As per Claim 51, wherein said step (b) includes the steps of: (3) applying a third function to said value in said log-in data to obtain a first credential; and (4) decrypting a third value in said log-in record to obtain a decrypted value, wherein said step (b)(4) employs said first credential, and wherein said step (d) includes the steps of: (3) applying a fourth function to said value in said

log-in record to obtain a second credential; (4) encrypting a quantity to obtain a fourth value, wherein said step (d)(4) employs said second credential; and (5) replacing said third value in said log-in record with said fourth value (col.4 line 41 to col.5 line 65).

As per Claim 52, wherein said first function is a first hash function and said second function is a second hash function different than said first hash function, and said third function is a third hash function and said fourth function is a fourth hash function different than said third hash function (col.3line 63 to col.4 line 18).

As per Claim 53, wherein said step (b) includes the steps of: (3) inputting said value in said log-in data into a first cryptographic cipher to obtain a first encryption key; and (4) decrypting a third value in said log-in record to obtain a decrypted value, wherein said step (b)(4) employs said first encryption key, wherein said step (d) includes the steps of: (3) inputting said value in said log-in data into a second cryptographic cipher to obtain a second encryption key; (4) encrypting a quantity to obtain a fourth value, wherein said step (d)(4) employs said second encryption key; and (5) replacing said third value in said log-in record with said fourth value (col.4 line 41 to col.5 line 65).

As per Claim 54, wherein said computer system maintains a log-in record, wherein said step (b)(2) includes the steps of: (i) decrypting a first value in said log-in record to obtain a decrypted value, wherein said step (b)(2)(i) employs said first result as a decryption key; and (ii) forwarding said decrypted value to a primary computer system, and wherein said step (d)

includes the steps of: (2) encrypting a quantity to obtain a second value, wherein said step (d)(2) employs said second result obtained in said step (d)(1); and (3) replacing said first value in said log-in record with said second value (col.4 line 41 to col.5 line 65).

As per Claim 55, wherein said first function is a first hash function and said second function is a second hash function different than said first hash function, and said third function is a third hash function and said fourth function is a fourth hash function different than said third hash function (col.3line 63 to col.4 line 18, and col.5 line 35 to col.5 line 65).

As per Claim 56, wherein said first function is a first cryptographic cipher and said second function is a second cryptographic cipher different than said first cryptographic cipher, and said third function is a third cryptographic cipher and said fourth function is a fourth cryptographic cipher different than said third cryptographic cipher (col.3line 63 to col.4 line 18, and col.5 line 35 to col.5 line 65).

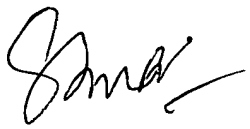
As per Claim 57, wherein said computer system includes a log-in record corresponding to said client, wherein said log-in record includes a first entry identifying said current security scheme, said method further including the step of: (e) replacing said first entry in said log-in record with a second entry identifying said desired security scheme.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Syed Zia whose telephone number is 571-272-3798. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



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June 09, 2006